

10-3-2016

SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, October 3, 2016

San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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San Jose State University, Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. "SJSU ERFA Board Minutes, October 3, 2016" *SJSU ERFA Minutes* (2016).

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Minutes:

SJSU ERFA Executive Board Meeting

Monday, October 3, 2016. Duncan Hall 249

Members Present: Celia Bakke, Gene Bernardini, Peter Buzanski, Ji-Mei Chang, Carol Christensen, Elba Maldonado-Colon, Barbara Conry,, Abdel El-Shaieb, Nancie Fimbel, Don Keesey, , Bill McCraw, Joan Merdinger, Wayne Savage, Carmen Sigler, Jackie Snell, Jo Bell Whitlatch, Dennis Wilcox, and Bob Wilson.

1. **Call to order:** President Nancie Fimbel called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

2. **The Minutes** of September 12 were approved by voice vote with one abstention.

3. President's Remarks.

Nancie apologized that the board meeting started somewhat late because **she, Ji-Mei, Jo Bell, and Dennis** had a meeting with President Papazian to acquaint her with SJSU-EFFA and our faculty awards program. The primary objective was to 1) request that the University honor retiring faculty members in the spring with a Presidential reception, and (2) invite the president to make some remarks at the Holiday Party and to be the speaker at our spring luncheon.

President Papazian was receptive to the idea of a reception, but suggested that we work directly with the provost to determine the format and timing. As for being a speaker, she asked **Nancie** to directly contact her scheduler to check her availability.

Nancie also reported that five members of the board attended the meeting of Northern California AROHE held Friday, September 30, on the SJSU campus – which was hosted by the **Amy Strage** in the Office of Faculty Development. Board members attending were **Nancie, Ji-Mei, Jo Bell, Joan, and Dennis**. Representatives from UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, UC Davis, Santa Clara University, etc. spent the morning sharing idea and best practices about involving retired faculty and helping them transition to retirement. **Nancie** noted that she came away from the meeting feeling that SJSU-ERFA, given its resources, was doing a pretty good job. The SJSU-ERFA board members attending plan to do additional discussion and make some recommendations to the board at a future date on some new outreach initiatives that could be implemented on the SJSU campus.

Related to this discussion about helping faculty transition to retirement, **Nancie and Jo Bell** briefly discussed the legacy project about “what to do with my stuff” and “how do I want to be remembered.” **Jo Bell** mentioned that UC Santa Cruz has begun to produce short video interviews with retiring faculty. Such a program would enable us to revitalize faculty biographical files and post these short video clips on our website. The University’s annual faculty service luncheon would be a good venue to do these video interviews. In addition, UC Davis works with administrators to connect with retired faculty and partner on mutual projects.

4. Update on Events and Activities. The fall luncheon is October 14. **Jackie** reported that, to date, only 30 had made a reservation. Additional reservations were given to her by board members. **Carmen** reported that the program logistics were in place. **Gene** mentioned that some members questioned Michael's as a venue, stating that they no longer drove on the freeway. There was a general consensus that future reservation forms should include a space where respondents could indicate that they would like to car pool and such requests could probably be handled on an ad hoc basis.,

5. Action Items.

A. Updating guidelines for Faculty Research Awards. **Joan** distributed the proposed new guidelines for the 2017 faculty awards. Two changes were proposed: 1) Item 7: The project's demonstrated contribution to knowledge... and 2) The significance of the project to the discipline. The changes were approved by voice vote. The announcement will be distributed to faculty in mid-October and will mention two \$2,500 awards, which was approved by the Board in the May meeting.

Bob Wilson asked how such awards benefit the membership. **Joan** and others said it increased the visibility of ERFA among departments and faculty on campus. **Don** noted that it's part of the ERFA mission statement to support the campus. **Wayne** thought that 20 years down the road, those participants may join ERFA. **Ji-Mei** mentioned that it impresses administrators such as **President Papazian** and the Provost, which makes them more receptive to supporting ERFA activities.

B. Proposed By-Laws. **Jo Bell** and **Ji-Mei** recommended several changes to the SJSU-ERFA by-laws. First, counselors have been added to those that qualify for regular membership because the collective bargaining contract recognizes them as academic faculty. Second, Section 2 has modified standing committees to such examples as membership, activities, faculty awards, etc. Section 3. Empowers ad hoc committees to do specific tasks of limited duration such as nominations and special projects. The changes were approved with voice vote and will now be presented to the membership at the May business meeting.

C. Donations Strategy. **Nancie** and **Gene** reported that its sub-committee, including **Lonna**, reported on two issues: 1) The SJSU-ERFA response to the CSU-ERFA initiative on Soles4Souls and 2) raising funds for the faculty awards program. The first recommendation is to not participate in the "soles" program and instead concentrate on fund-raising for the faculty awards program. The second is to schedule the donation appeals for the faculty research awards by having an article in the winter newsletter about the awards, followed by stories in the newsletter about the recipients of the award and quotes. At the spring luncheon, where the recipients will be invited to give a short presentation on their research, yet another article in the summer newsletter would give their backgrounds and research projects. The board approved by voice vote.

6. Reports

a. **Treasurer. Abdel** reported that the current balance was \$12,520.69 and that the expected balance by the end of the year will be about \$11,000. He also reported a \$1,340 carry-over to next year's faculty awards program. To date, 197 members have paid their 2016-17 dues. He thanked members of the board for continuing to make updates on the list of current unpaid members and who should be contacted or deleted because of death or major medical problems.

b. **Membership. Wayne** reported that the membership roster has 297 members on it, but anyone not paying dues since 2015 will be dropped before the annual directory is published. **Jo Bell** noted that **Wayne and Abdel** have spent considerable time attempting to reconcile membership numbers (those who have paid and have yet to renew) and instigated a round of applause from the board.

c. **Newsletter Editor. Gene** asked about the date of the spring field trip. **Carmen** noted that the activities committee will be meeting to brainstorm possible trips and will make a report at the next meeting. In addition, a date for the spring luncheon can't be publicized yet until word is received back from the president's office about what dates might be available for her to be the speaker. **Gene** also reported that the board now has a new supply of SJSU-ERFA notecards that can be used for consolations, thank you notes, etc.

d. **Webmaster. Carol** reported that the March minutes are now available on the website and everything is up to date.

e. **Consolations.** No report

f. **Film group. Gene** reported that four attended an Australian film, "The Dressmaker." Not his favorite film, but **Celia** liked it.

g. **Faculty Senate. Peter** reported that the new University president, **Mary Papazian**, attended the first Faculty Senate meeting of the semester and pronounced that she was "a real winner." She gets high marks from senate members and the VP of Student Affairs as being very open to ideas and collaboration. President Papazian has started to make administrative changes. Her chief-of-staff has been assigned the job of being interim associate VP of Student Success.

In addition, HR and Faculty Affairs will be under the umbrella of a new vice president who was her assistant provost at Southern Connecticut State University. A revised policy on faculty office hours, according to the Provost, has been well received by faculty and students. The new policy, replacing one from 1964, calls for faculty to have office hours (no set number) but to also regularly interact with students via email and other online opportunities.

h. **CSU-ERFA.** SJSU has three members on the state board and, in general, two usually attend. **Bob Wilson** noted it was important for all three members to attend to have more influence in deliberations. There was a brief discussion about how to fund/reimburse having three

members regularly attend. **Nancie** noted that further discussion on funding our representatives would be held at the November meeting.

i. **Archivist.** Nothing of significance to report.

7. New Business. (Jo Bell and legacy project covered under president's remarks)

8. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11: 51 a.m. The next meeting will be Monday, **November 7**, at 10 a.m., Duncan Hall 249.

A. **Snacks:** Thanks to **Barbara Conry**

Upcoming Refreshments:

- November 7 – Lonna Smith
- December 5 – Celia Bakke
- February 6 – Adnan Daoad
- March 6 – Delores E. Hamilton
- April 5 – Nancie Fimbel
- May 1 – Marian Yoder